Pakistan's challenge to India's claim on Super Basmati Rice

1644. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has challenged India's claim on Super Basmati Rice;

(b) if so, what is the legal position at this juncture and what are the threats to India's rice production from Pakistan; and

(c) whether there is a strategy to work jointly with Pakistan on these issues in dealing with European Union and other Western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Rice Exporter Association of Pakistan through a legal notice sent to the Department of Commerce in September, 2007 *vide* their Indian Lawyer have claimed that India has indulged in "passing off action" by notifying Super Basmati rice variety for export purpose. The reply contesting their claim has already been sent through our lawyers. Since then there has been no further feedback from the Pakistani side on this matter. There does not appear to be any threat to India's Rice production from Pakistan.

(c) The Government of India has expressed willingness to discuss with Pakistan the possibilities of joint registration of Basmati Rice as a Geographical Indication (GI), which will help both the countries to protect Basmati name against illegal infringements by third countries.

Growth rate of industrial production and exports

†1645. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the annual growth rate of industrial production in the country and annual growth rate of exports;

(b) if so, the growth rate of industrial production and export from the year 2004-05 to 2006-07, year-wise; and

(c) the annual growth rates of export of agricultural products during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The industrial growth, export growth, and the growth rate of export of agriculture and allied products during 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 are given below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Growth rate (in per cent)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Industry	8.4	8.2	11.6
Total Exports (in dollar terms)	30.8	23.4	22.6
Agriculture and allied products exports (in dollar terms)	16.4	14.7	18.5

SEZs in Maharashtra

1646. SHRI SANJAY ROUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the Special Economic Zone (SEZs) planned and approved for being set up in Maharashtra during the last one year;

(b) the Central aid sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Under Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005, 84 formal approvals have been given for setting up of SEZs in Maharashtra. Out of these, 24 SEZs have been notified and are in various stages of implementation. The details of the SEZs notified are given in the Statement (*See* below). The Central Government does not provide any financial assistance to these SEZs which are being set up by private sector entrepreneurs themselves or State Government undertakings or in joint venture with the State Government/State Government undertakings However, the Developers setting up SEZs and units therein are entitled for concessions in accordance with provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006.

Statement

The Details of notified Special Economic Zones

No.	Name of Developers and location	Type of SEZ	Area (in hectares)	Date of notification
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Serum Bio-pharma Park, Pune	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	23.1793	19th Jul' 06
2.	EON Kharadi Infrastructure Private Limited, Pune	IT/ITES	18	28th Sept. '06
3.	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Aurangabad	Aluminimum and aluminimum related industry	118.13	22nd Dec. '06
4.	WIPRO Limited, Pune	IT/ITES	20	28th Dec. '06